

the first report of the naturalising of the weed in India.

It is imperative that steps are taken to eradicate the weed at the earliest. It may otherwise pose a threat to the native flora of the islands owing to its allelopathic effects.

**Parthenium hysterophorus** L., Sp. Pl. 988. 1753; Voight, Hort. Sub. Calcutt. 62. 1845; Rao, in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 54: 218. 1956.

Voucher specimens of the plant: South Andaman: Neil Island: Sharma and Prashanth 101, dated 20-10-1988: deposited in the Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Circle, Port Blair (PBL).

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#### 34. A NOTE ON THE REDISCOVERY OF *JASMINUM ANDAMANICUM* BALAKR. AND N.G. NAIR — AN ENDANGERED ENDEMIC SPECIES

The genus *Jasminum* is a fairly well represented member of the family Oleaceae. Nine species of this genus occur in the Andaman — Nicobar islands of which three species are endemic. *Jasminum andamanicum* Balakr. and N.G. Nair was originally described by Balakrishnan and Nair from the old collections of Dr King's Collector (1894) and Parkinson (1915) at CAL and PBL. These specimens were known to have been collected from the Middle Andamans and South Andamans. After Parkinson's collection (1915) it had never been collected again.

During the floristic survey of Mount Harriet hill ranges, we collected this interesting wild ornamental endemic *Jasminum*. The area from which the species has been collected supports a semi-evergreen type of forest. Mount Harriet hills, the highest peak of South Andamans is rich in plant diversity. About 46.7 sq. km of these hill ranges have been declared as a National Park. *J. andamanicum* is found growing sparsely along

the edges of the forests at Shoalbay. This area is not included in the National Park area of the hill ranges. There is every possibility of extinction of this endangered endemic species if proper protective measures for conservation are not taken.

Being an interesting re-discovery, a brief description is given below on the basis of the recent collection:

***Jasminum andamanicum*** Balakr. and N.G. Nair in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 21: 215. 1979.

Scandant climbing shrubs, woody at base, pale greyish or creamy white with fissured bark, young branchlets greenish, smooth. Leaves trifoliolate, opposite, dark green above, comparatively pale green beneath; leaflets 3-10 x 2-6 cm, lateral nerves 5-8 pairs, petiole c. 3 cm long, terminal petiolules 0.9-2.2 cm long, lateral petiolules c. 4-9 mm long. Inflorescence in paniculate cymes up to 12 cm long, erect, densely matted with white wooly pubescence. Flowers white with pleasant smell, calyx pale whitish,

corolla milky white, stamens bright lemon yellowish.

*Specimens examined:* South Andamans, Mount Harriet Hills, Shoalbay 19, 14/12/1991, S.P. Mathew 20778 (CAL, PBL) & North Bay Hill Jungle 5/1/1894, Dr King's collector s.n. acc. no. 286073, 28074, 286075 & 286076 (PBL). Middle Andamans 17/12/1915 C.E. Parkinson 787 (CAL, PBL).

*Ecology:* Very rare in the edge of the inland semi-evergreen forests.

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### 35. *JATROPHA TANJORENSIS* ELLIS ET SAROJA — A NEW RECORD FOR ANDHRA PRADESH

During the floristic survey of Euphorbiaceae in Andhra Pradesh we collected *Jatropha tanjorensis* Ellis & Saroja from Wankidi in Adilabad district. After perusal of literature and specimens deposited in local and National herbaria it has been confirmed that our collection of *Jatropha tanjorensis* forms a new record for the State of Andhra Pradesh. It was first reported as a new species from Kollemendu in Vedaranyam forest in Tanjore district of Tamil Nadu in South India by Ellis and Saroja (1961, J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 58: 834-836.). Since our collection forms a subsequent collection and since it was not reported earlier from Andhra Pradesh, the up-to-date nomenclature, citation, distribution and phenological data is provided. The specimen collected is deposited in the Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh.

*Jatropha tanjorensis* Ellis & Saroja in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 58: 834. 1961; Dehgan & Webster in Univ. Calif. Publ. 74: 64. 1979; Mathew, Mat. Fl. Tamil Nadu carnatic 336. 1981.

*Distribution:* Along the road sides of the Wankidi forest area in Adilabad district in Andhra Pradesh.

*Fl. & Fr.:* August - December.

*Specimens examined:* Adilabad, Wankidi forest, P.S.P. Babu & D.A. Moulali 11801.

We thank the authorities of CAL Herbarium for confirming the identity of the specimen.

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### 36. REDISCOVERY OF *CALANTHE WHITEANA* KING & PANTLING— A VERY RARE INDIAN ORCHID ENDEMIC TO CHUNGTHANG VALLEY OF SIKKIM

(With ten text-figures)

During an extensive floristic exploration of floristically rich Chungthang valley of North Sikkim in June 1991, I came across a very rare plant of *Calanthe* R. Br. of family Orchidaceae. On critical examination of the fresh specimens, it was identified *Calanthe whiteana* which was otherwise thought to be extinct or of very rare occurrence (U.C. Pradhan 1979). King and Pantling while describing the plant in 1898, stated the status of the species to be rare and commented that "This is yet a little known plant".

Later on many workers tried to find this species in its natural habitat but all attempts proved futile and lead to the conclusion that it might perhaps be extinct. As the specimens have been hitherto collected from Chungthang valley at 1830 m altitude, no one knows the specific type locality of this orchid species. Subsequent to King & Pantling's report in 1898, there is no report on its collection from nature. The present collection from Bop R.F. of Chungthang valley is after a lapse of more than a hundred years and is very interesting.